

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX WIDE

FIRST FLIGHT

BENNETT
SANCHEZ
PENNINGTON
SANZ

MARVEL 004

SH

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

F I R S T F L I G H T



MAXIMUM RIDE doesn't remember much about her past.

She remembers **THE SCHOOL**, a secret lab where **SCIENTISTS** experimented on her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel. She remembers the **ERASERS**, the half-human, half-wolf monsters who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who gave his life to help **THE FLOCK** escape and find a life of peace...

Recently, while on their way to rescue Angel, the Flock was ambushed by Ari, leader of the Erasers. Max, Iggy and Gazzy were captured, returned to the school and reunited with Angel, only to discover that **JEB WAS ALIVE AND WORKING FOR THE SCHOOL!**

Fang and Nudge were able to rescue their friends, but not before Max uncovered a key to their past—the kids had parents and the **GENE-SPlicing THEY UNDERWENT TOOK PLACE IN THE WOMB!**

The Flock headed to New York City looking for answers, but shortly after arriving Max had received strange psychic message--**SAVE THE WORLD!**

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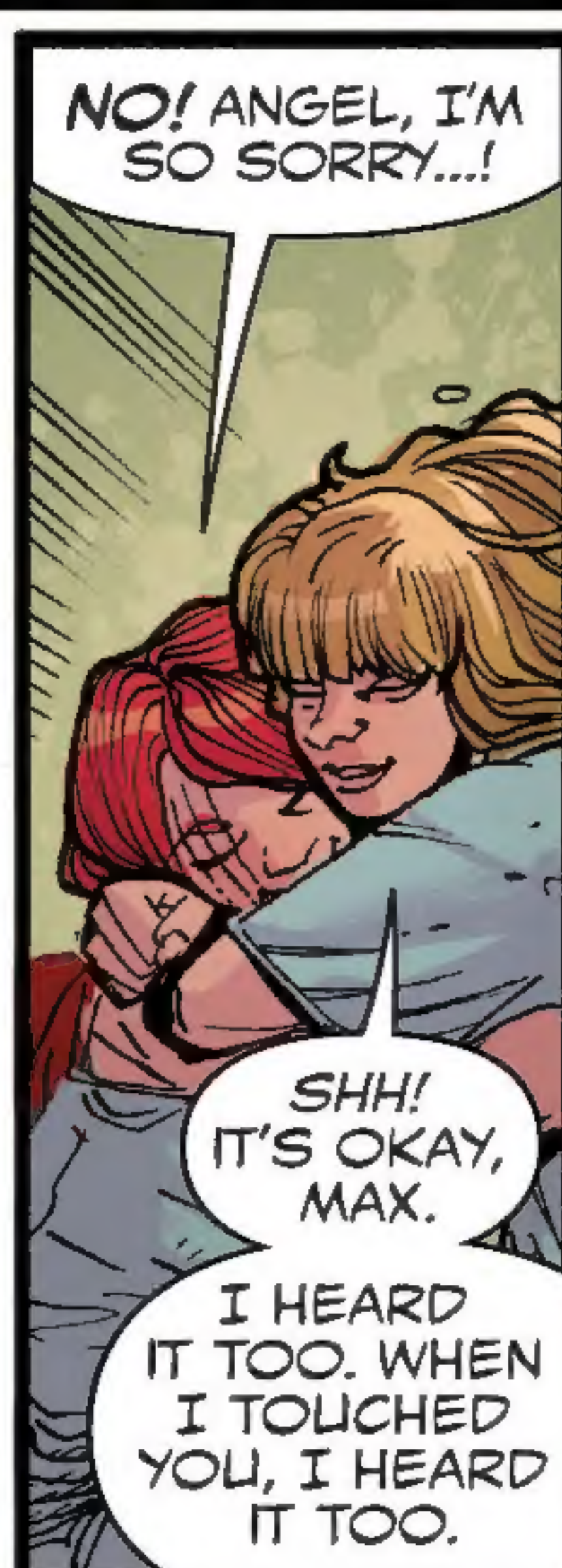
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WHEN I TOUCHED
MAX, IT WAS LIKE
TOUCHING A
BATTERY.

I THINK OUR ABILITIES
ARE GETTING STRONGER...
EVEN AT THE SCHOOL...WHEN
I SENT FANG AND NUDGE
THAT MESSAGE, ALL THE
WAY IN THE DESERT--I'D
NEVER BEEN ABLE TO
DO SOMETHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE!

ON MY
OWN, I CAN
READ THOUGHTS.
BUT WITH ALL OF
US TOGETHER
I THINK...

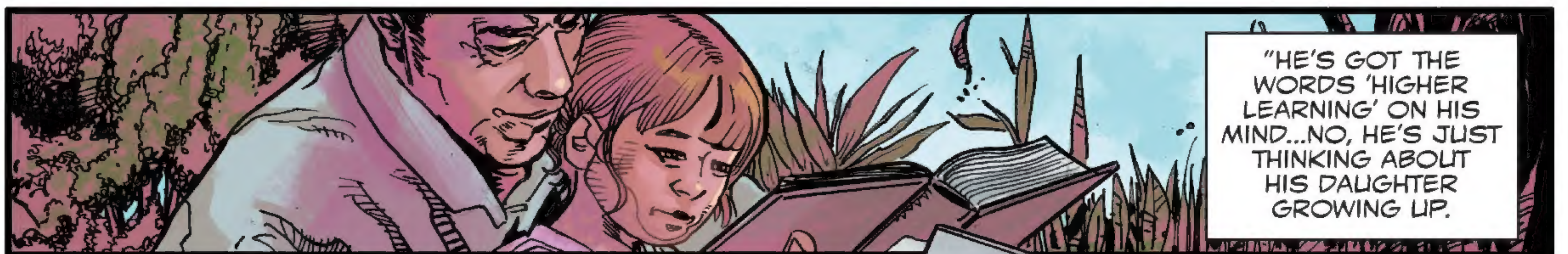
I CAN READ
EVERYTHING.



"THERE ARE SO
MANY PEOPLE...IT'S
SUCH A BLUR--WAIT, I
THINK I CAN HEAR--

"SHE'S THINKING
ABOUT THE
INSTITUTE OF...

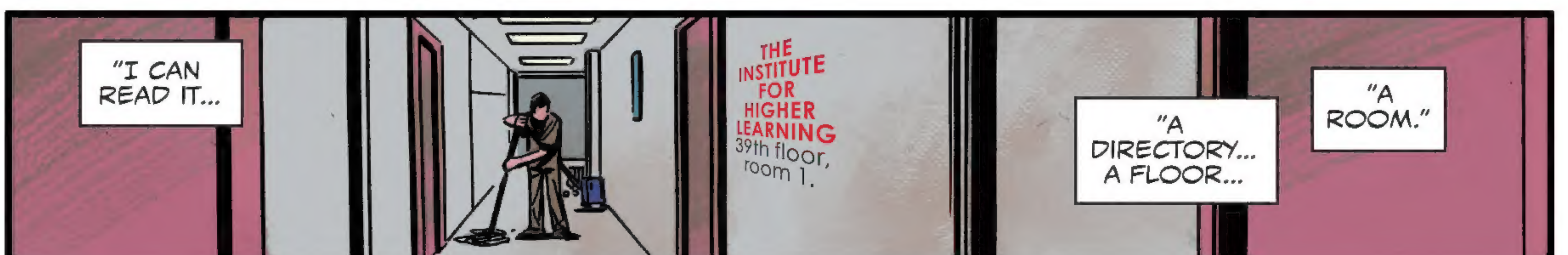
"NO, A **CULINARY**
INSTITUTE...



"HE'S GOT THE
WORDS 'HIGHER
LEARNING' ON HIS
MIND...NO, HE'S JUST
THINKING ABOUT
HIS DAUGHTER
GROWING UP.



"THERE'S A
WOMAN--A
WOMAN, WITH
A BUSINESS
CARD--IT'S GOT
AN ADDRESS!
IT'S CLOSE--!



"I CAN
READ IT..."

THE
INSTITUTE
FOR
HIGHER
LEARNING
39th floor,
room 1.

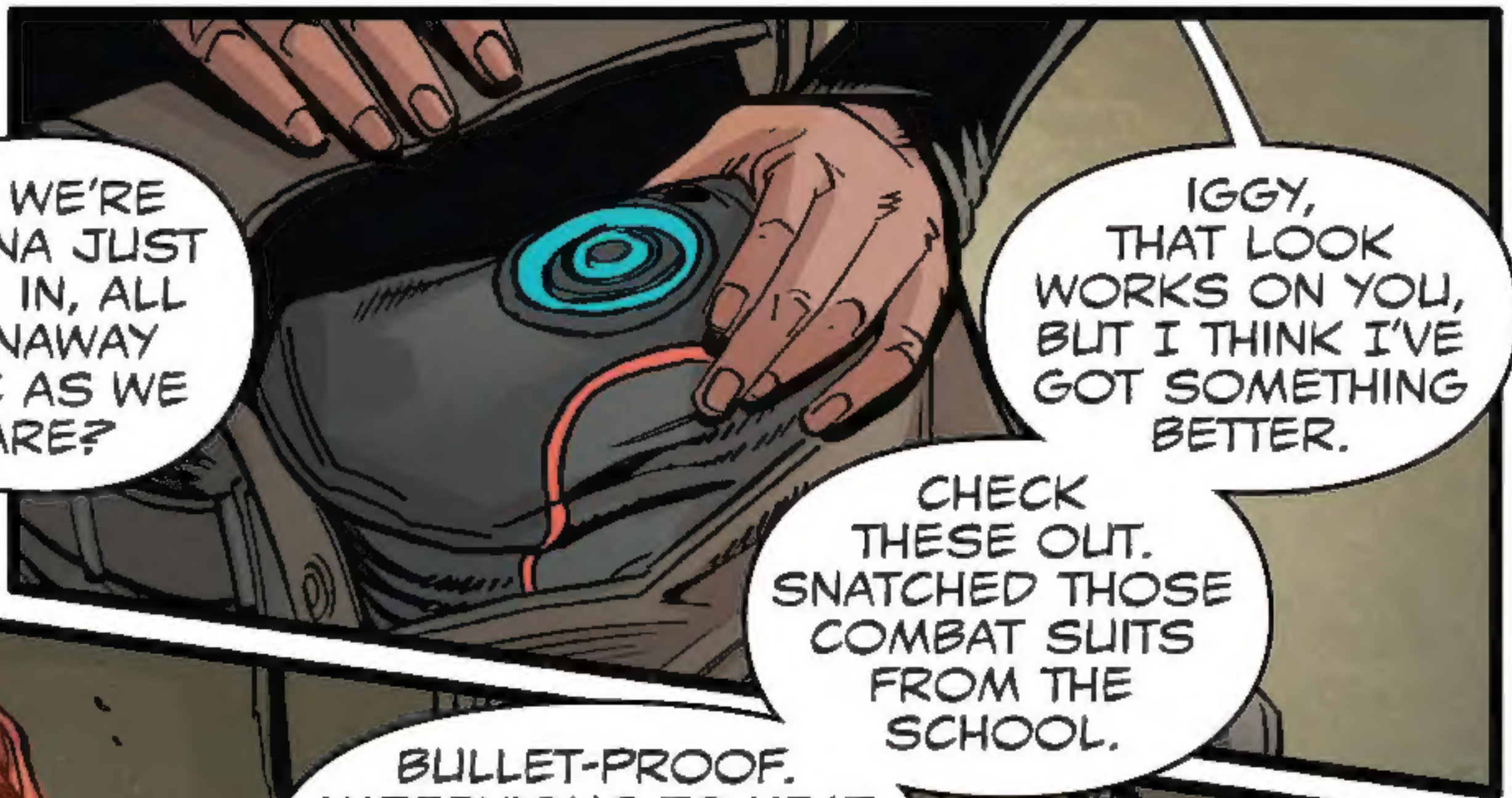
"A
DIRECTORY...
A FLOOR..."

"A
ROOM."



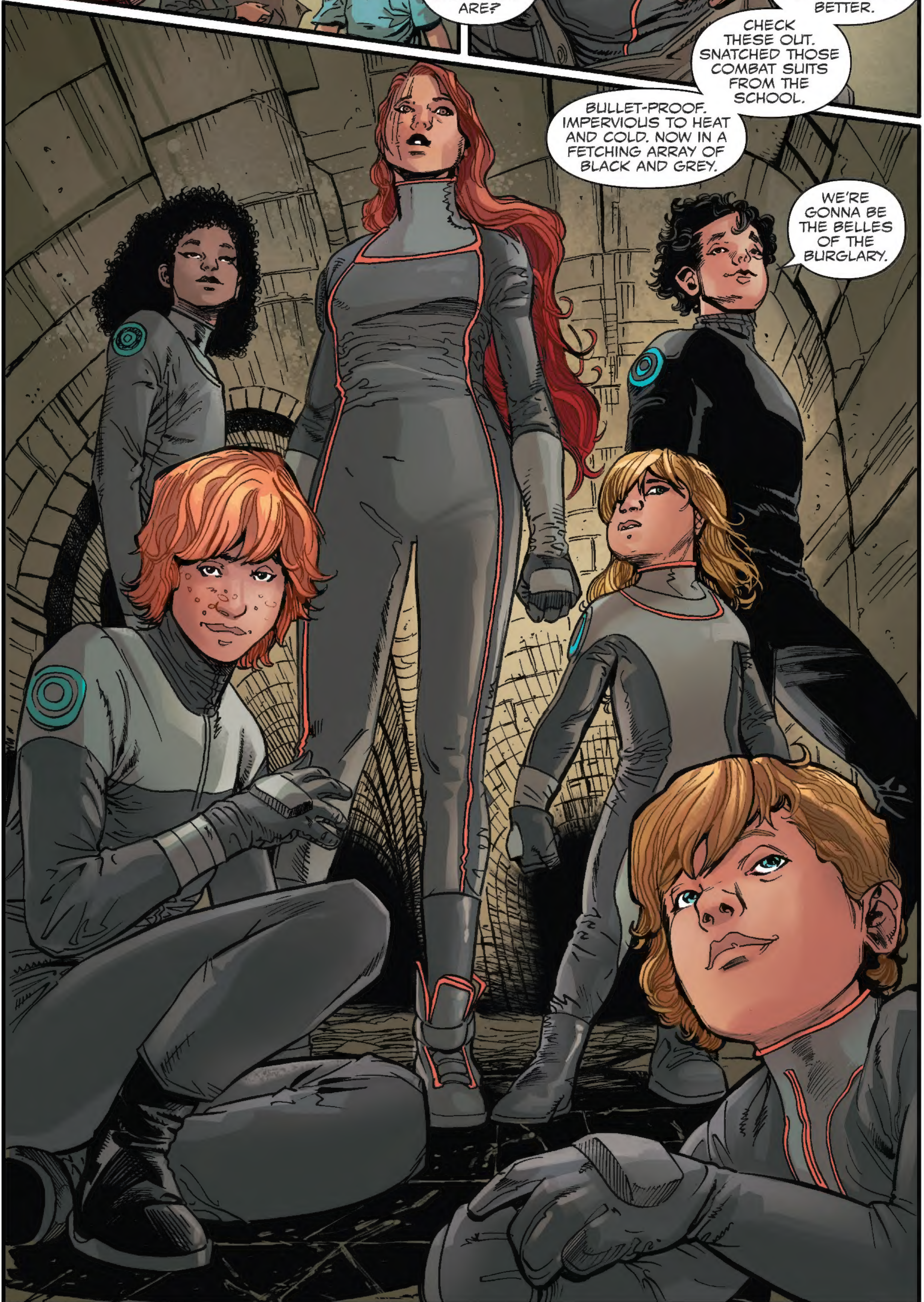
WE
FOUND
THEM,
MAX!

SO WE'RE
GONNA JUST
DIVE IN, ALL
RUNAWAY
CHIC AS WE
ARE?



IGGY,
THAT LOOK
WORKS ON YOU,
BUT I THINK I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
BETTER.

CHECK
THESE OUT.
SNATCHED THOSE
COMBAT SUITS
FROM THE
SCHOOL.



BULLET-PROOF.
IMPERVIOUS TO HEAT
AND COLD. NOW IN A
FETCHING ARRAY OF
BLACK AND GREY.

WE'RE
GONNA BE
THE BELLES
OF THE
BURGLARY.

ABOVE
MIDTOWN
MANHATTAN.

DO WE
THINK IT'S
A TRAP?

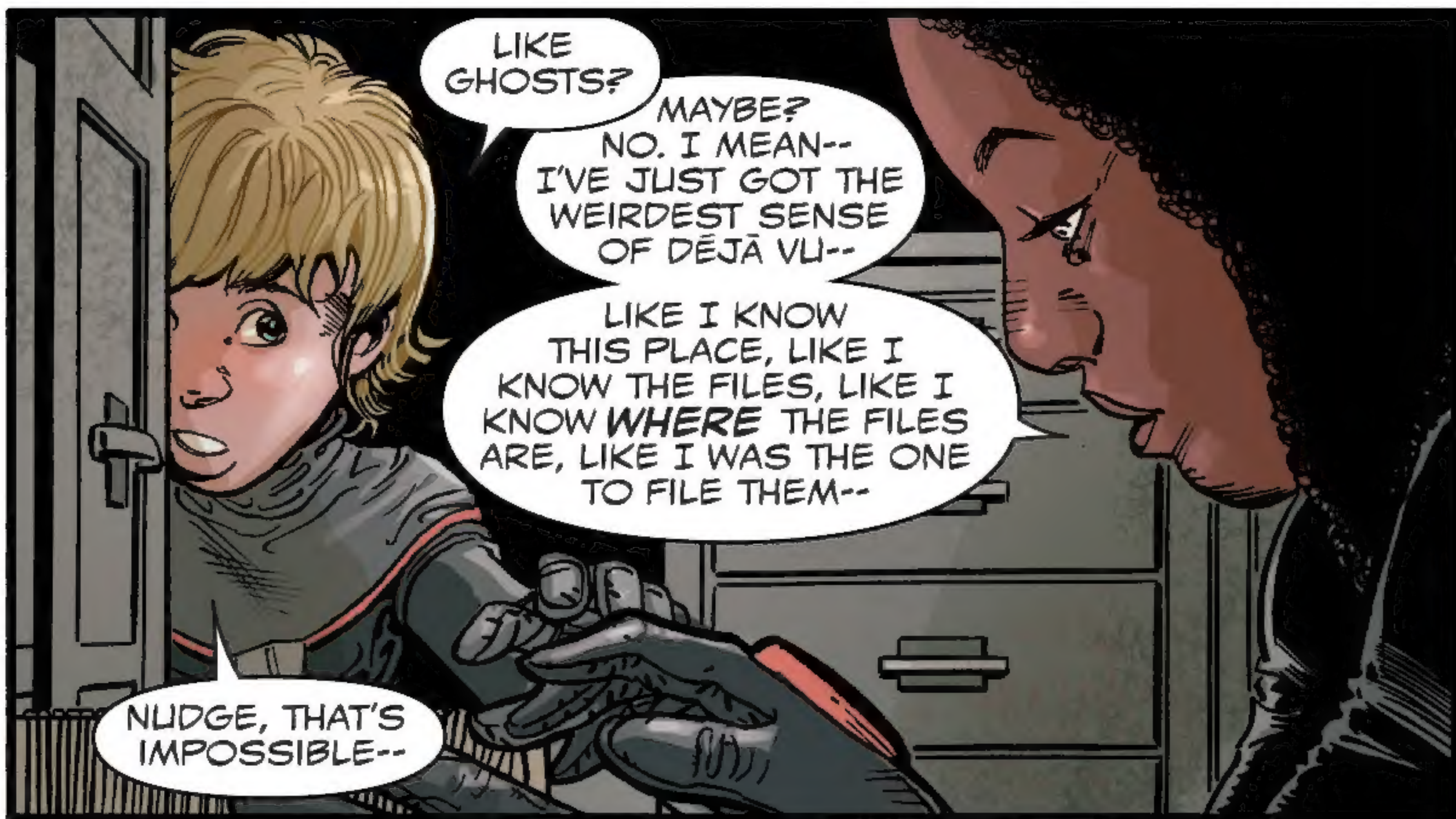
IT'S
GOTTA BE
A TRAP,
RIGHT?

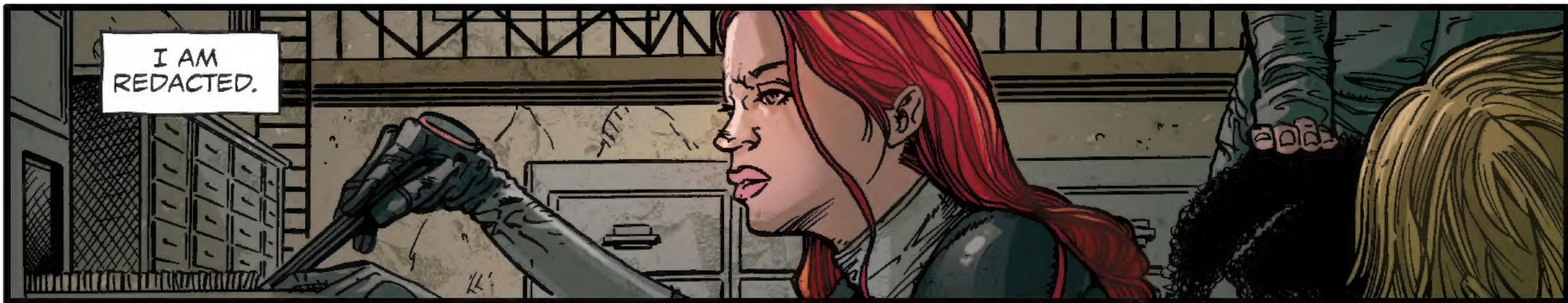
YES, IGGY.
THE SCHOOL
HAS TEAMED UP WITH
THE WIND TO GIVE US
ALL BAD HAIR
DAYS.

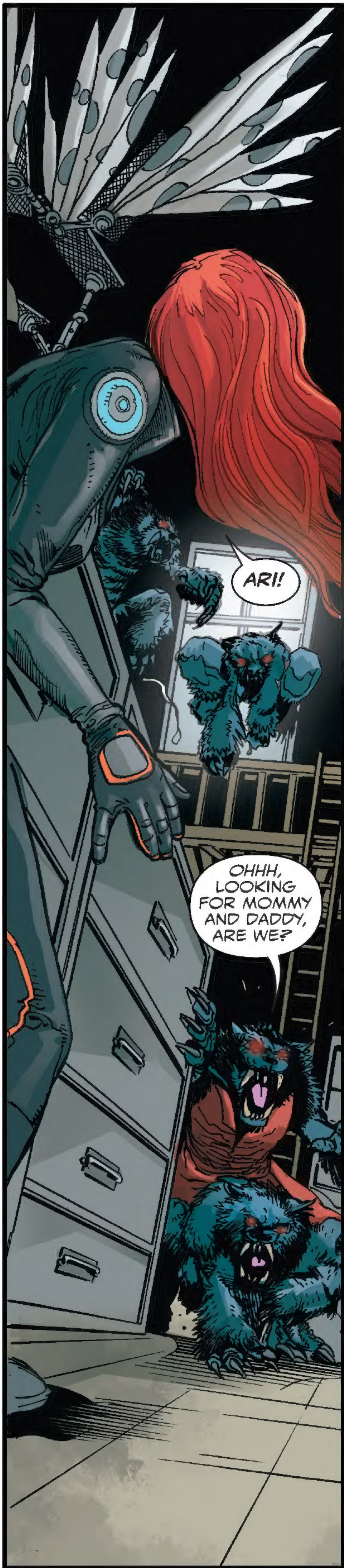
YOU
KNOW, FOR A
KID WITH WINGS,
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D
GET THE "FEAR OF
HEIGHTS" THING,
BUT--YEESH.

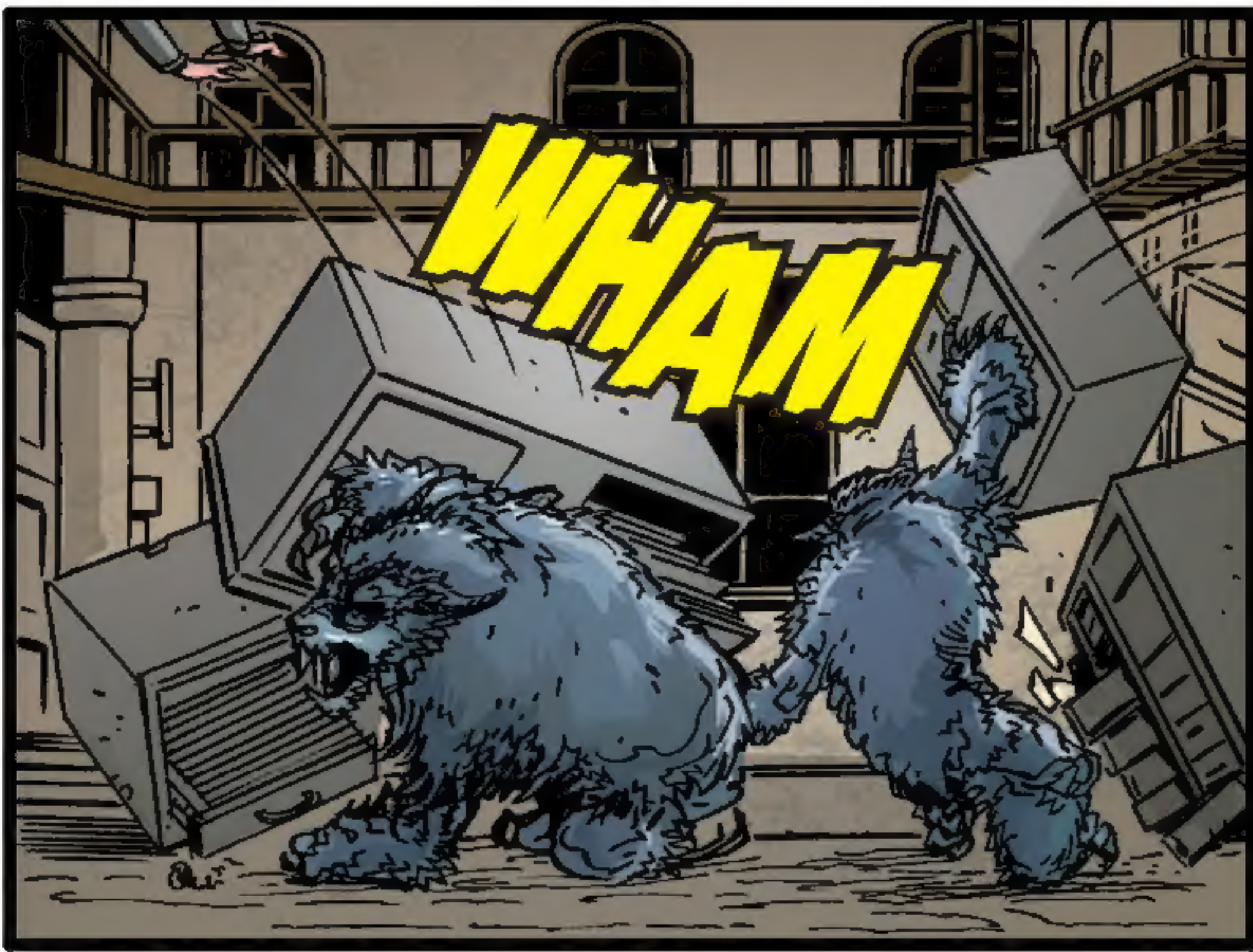
SAVE THE
WITTY BANTER
FOR MAX, FANG,
I'M NOT THE
ONE YOU MAKE
EYES AT.

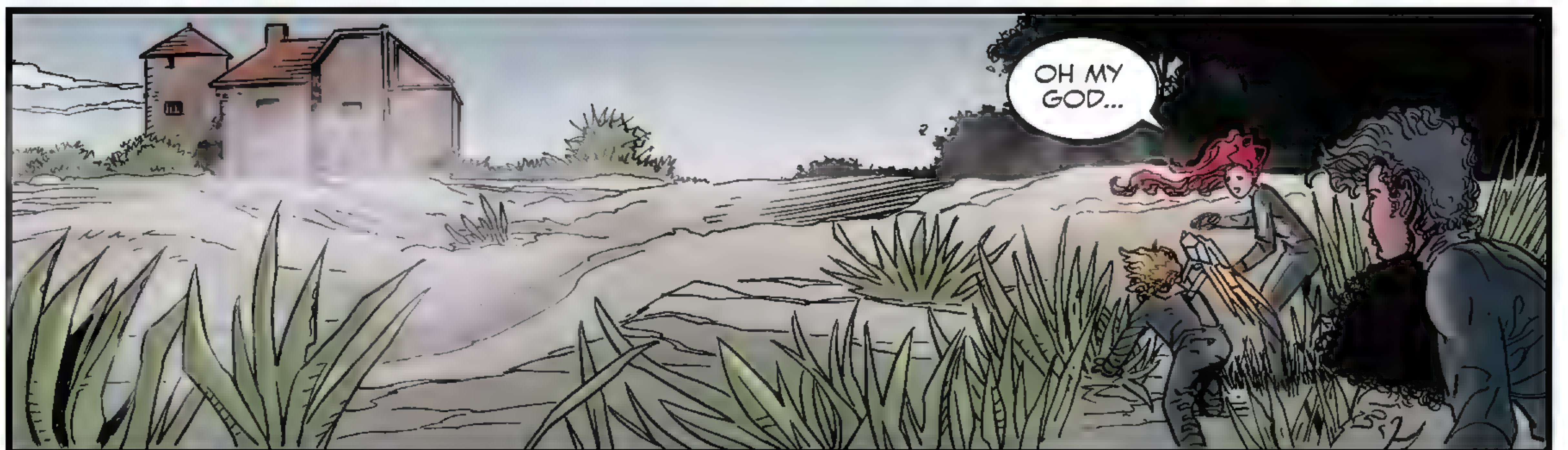
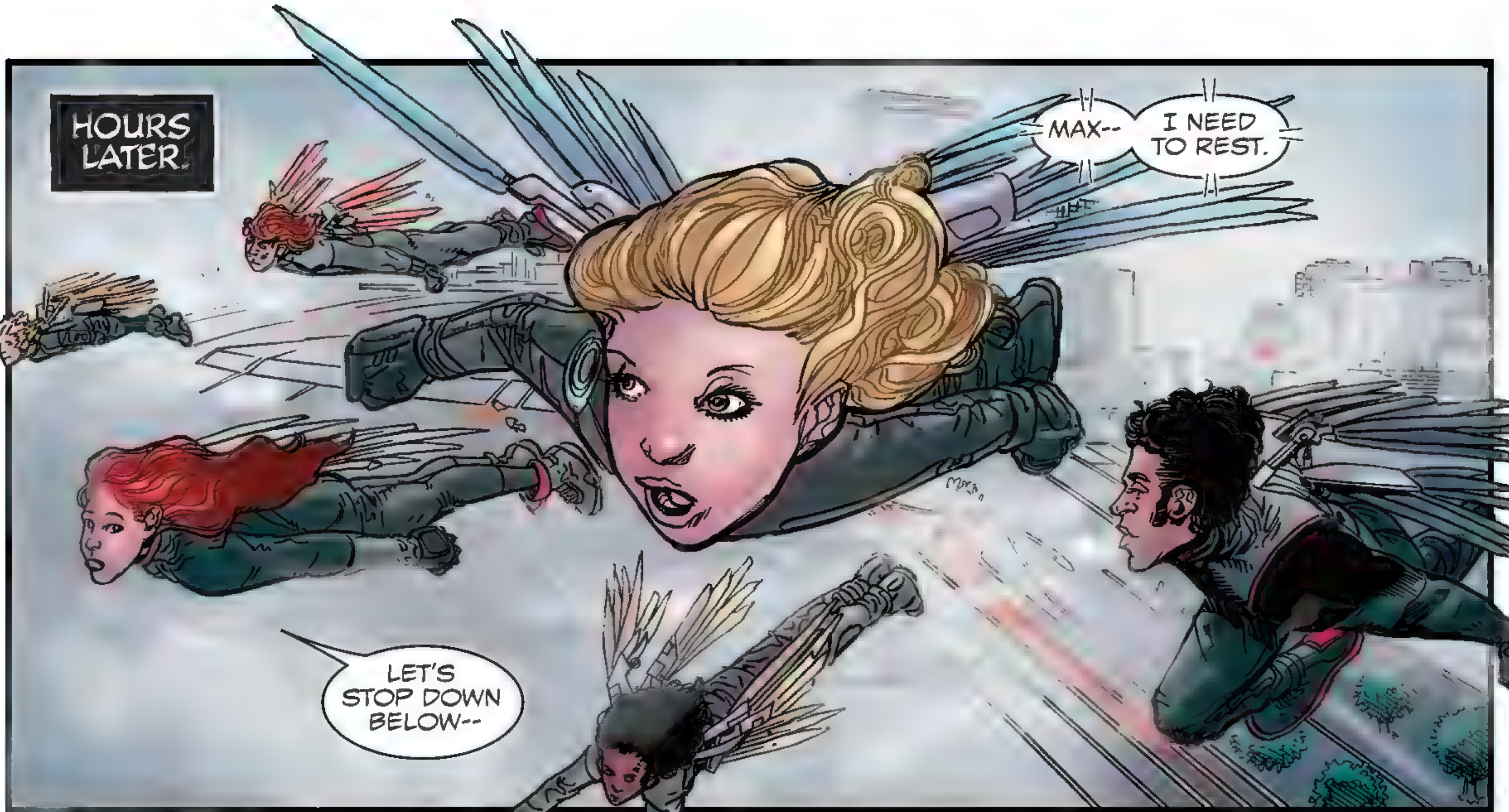
GET
READY
FOR--!!













...THIS IS PERFECT.



IT'S A...BAY HOUSE!

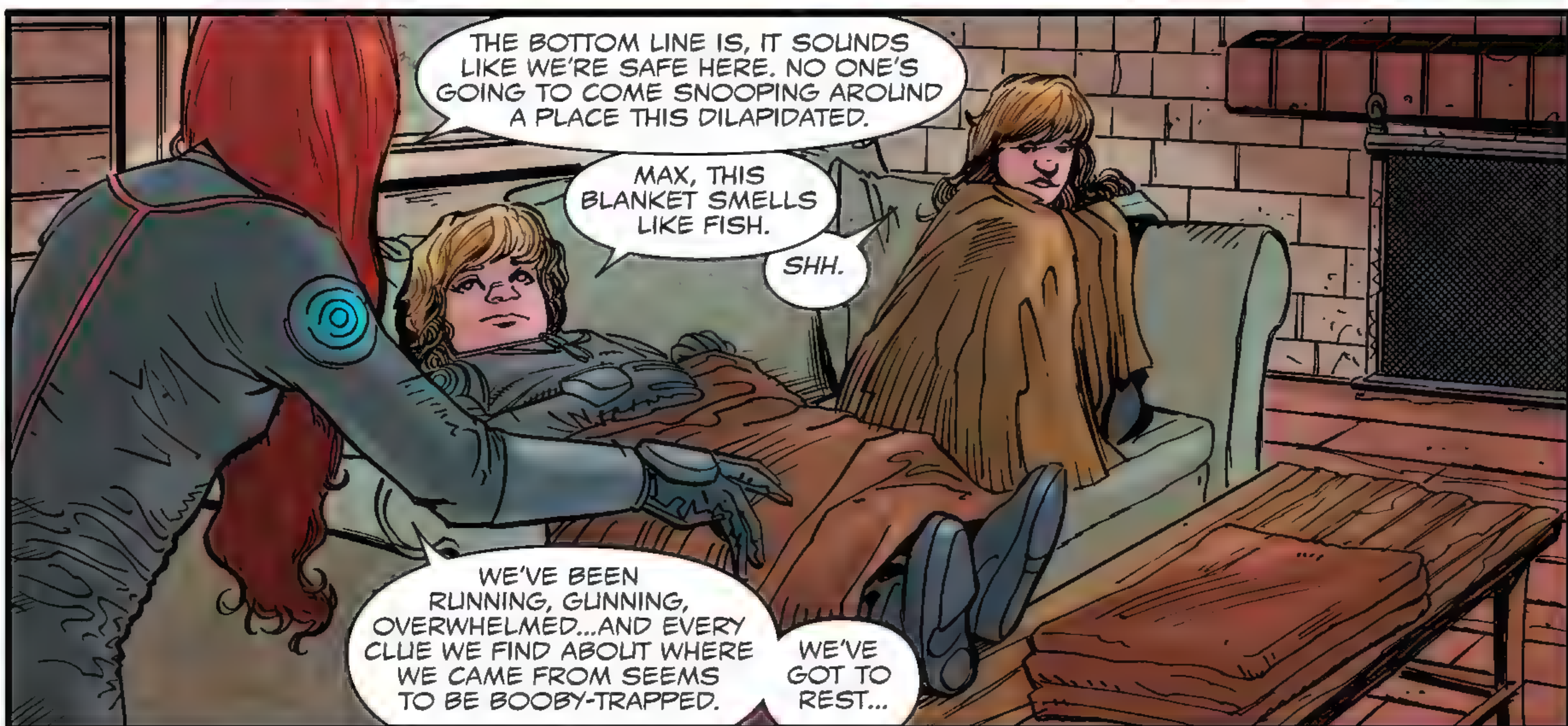
A WHAT?

THESE OLD FISHING COTTAGES IN THE MARSHES. THEY'RE ABANDONED BUT PEOPLE ARE TOO SCARED THAT DESTROYING THEM WILL HARM THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM--



NLIDGE, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?

I DON'T KNOW! IT'S LIKE EVERY PLACE WE COME TO, I GET THIS FLASH OF WHAT IT USED TO BE-- LIKE I CAN FEEL ITS HISTORY, ITS PURPOSE--



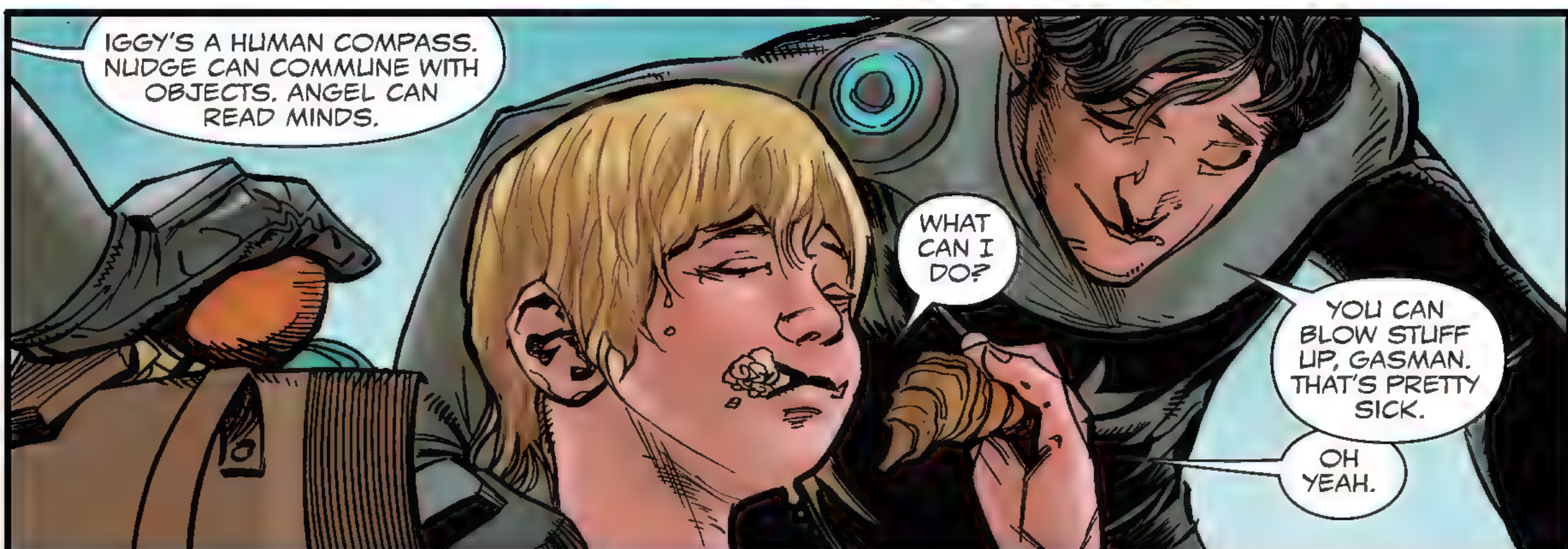
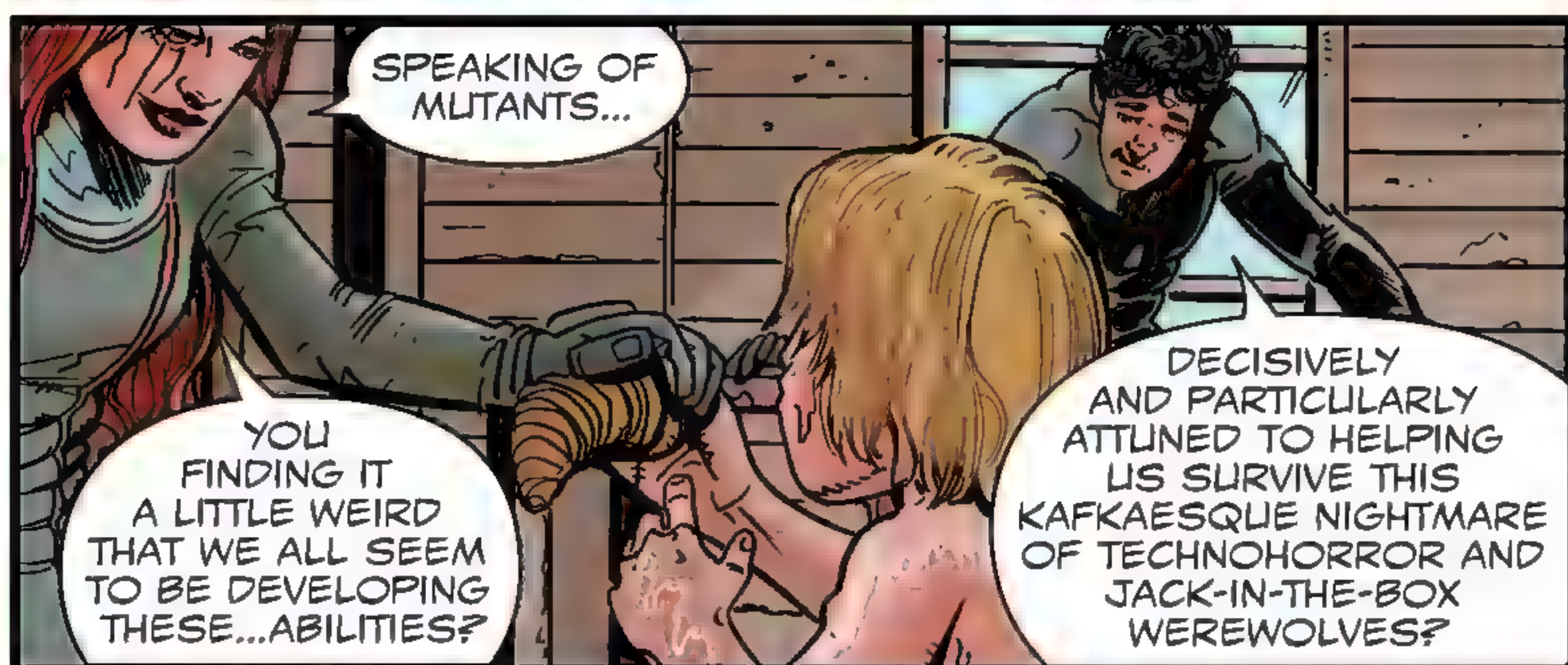
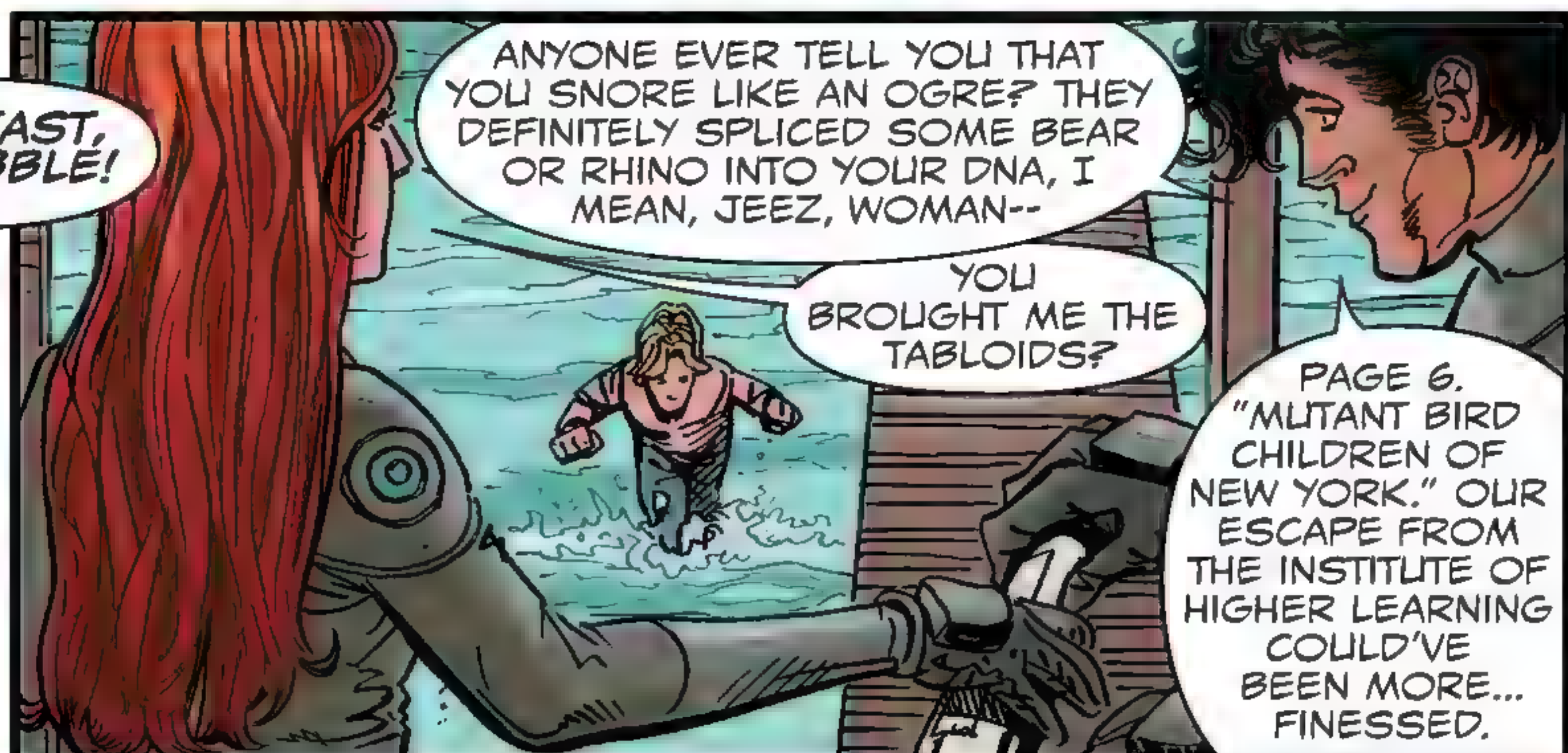
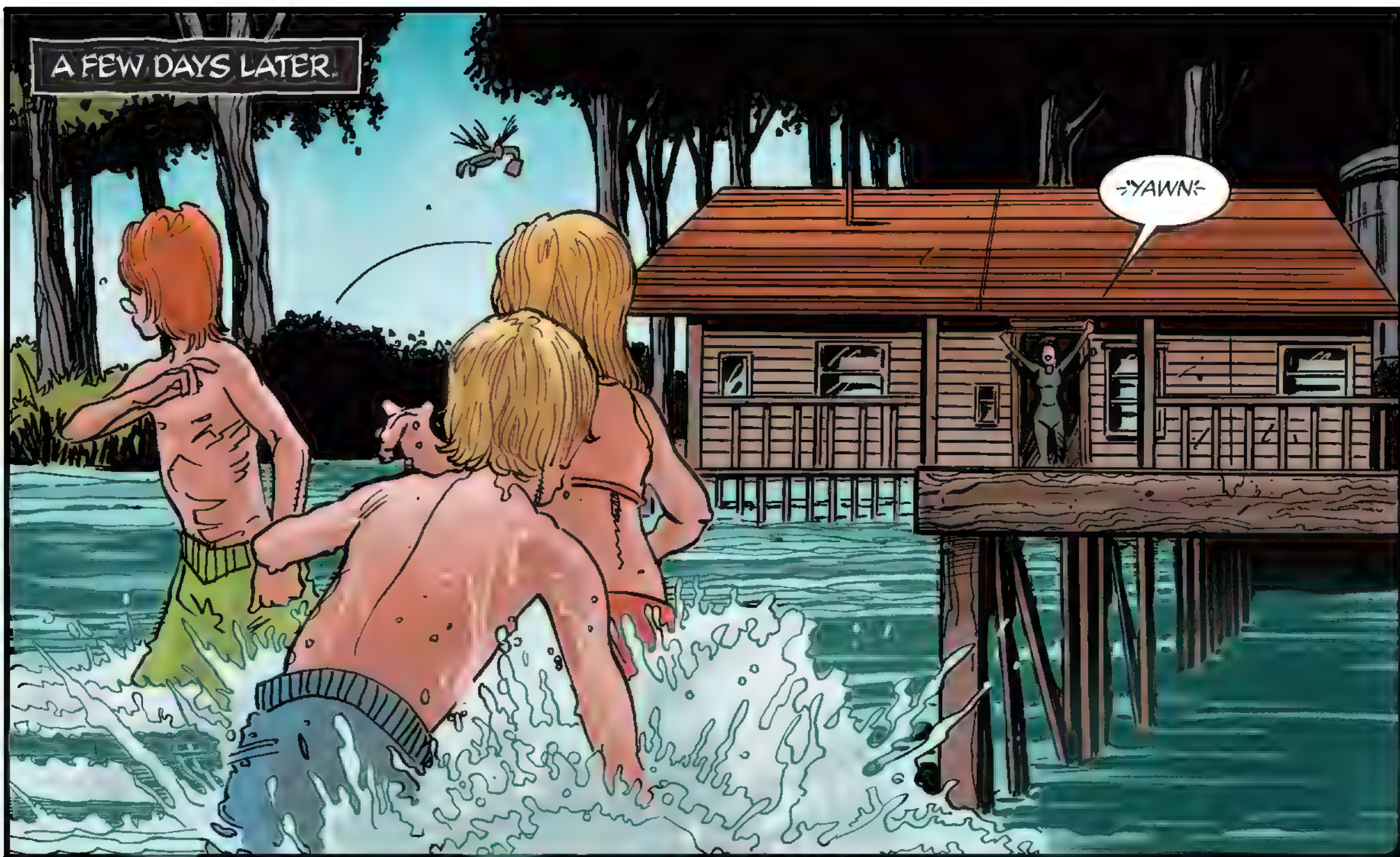
THE BOTTOM LINE IS, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE SAFE HERE. NO ONE'S GOING TO COME SNOOPING AROUND A PLACE THIS DILAPIDATED.

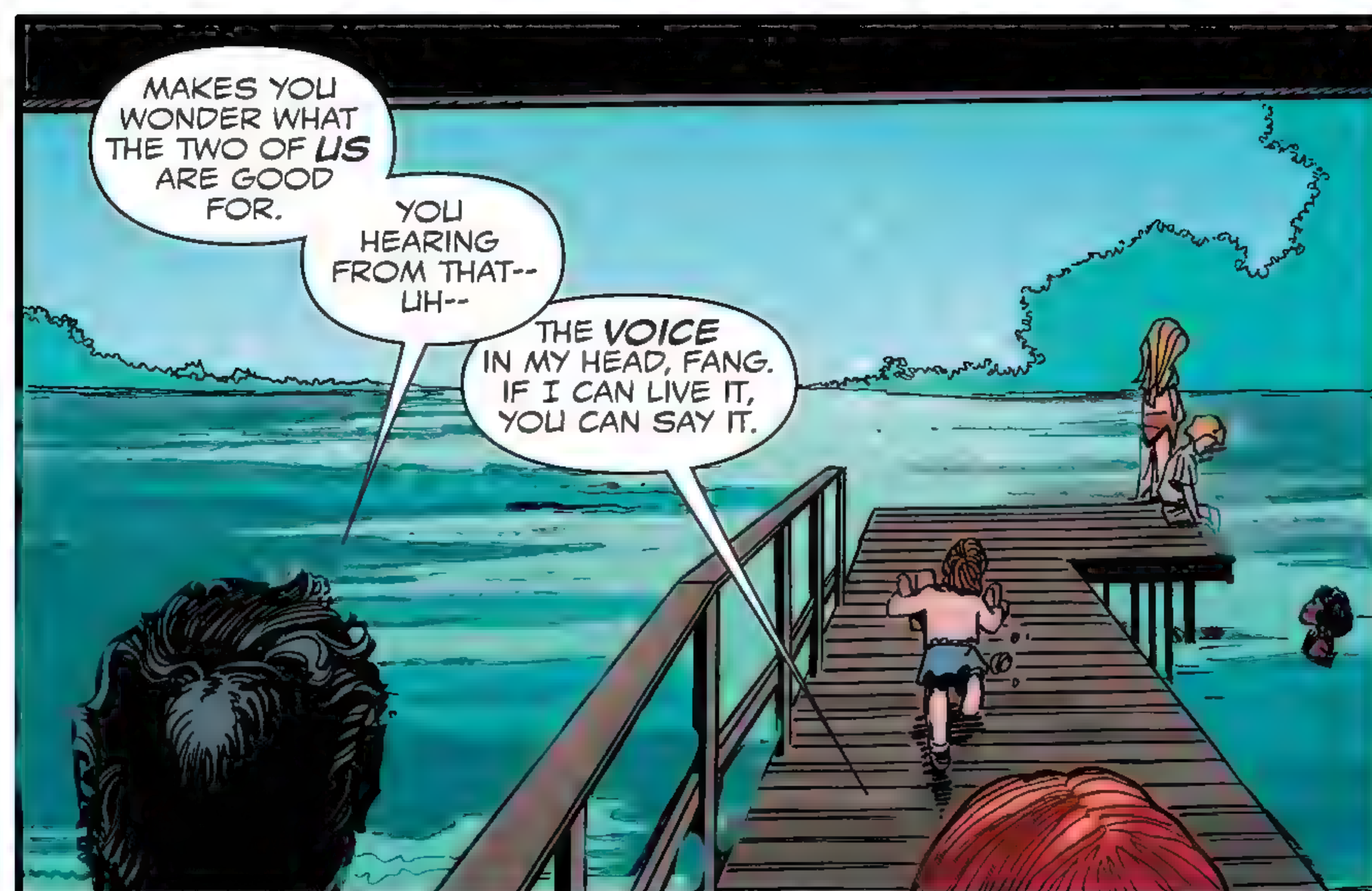
MAX, THIS BLANKET SMELLS LIKE FISH.

SHH.

WE'VE BEEN RUNNING, GUNNING, OVERWHELMED...AND EVERY CLUE WE FIND ABOUT WHERE WE CAME FROM SEEMS TO BE BOOBY-TRAPPED.

WE'VE GOT TO REST...





MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT THE TWO OF US ARE GOOD FOR.

YOU HEARING FROM THAT--UH--

THE VOICE IN MY HEAD, FANG. IF I CAN LIVE IT, YOU CAN SAY IT.



WHERE DID THIS COME FROM, BY THE WAY?

THERE'S A TOWN NOT FAR OVER. DID SOME SLEIGHT OF HAND TRICKS.

NONE OF THE SLEIGHT OF HAND INVOLVED PINCHING WALLETS, DID IT?



MADAME, I AM WOUNDED.

BUT YOU'LL LIVE.

NO. I DIDN'T STEAL. SOME PEOPLE PAY MONEY FOR MY HUMOR!



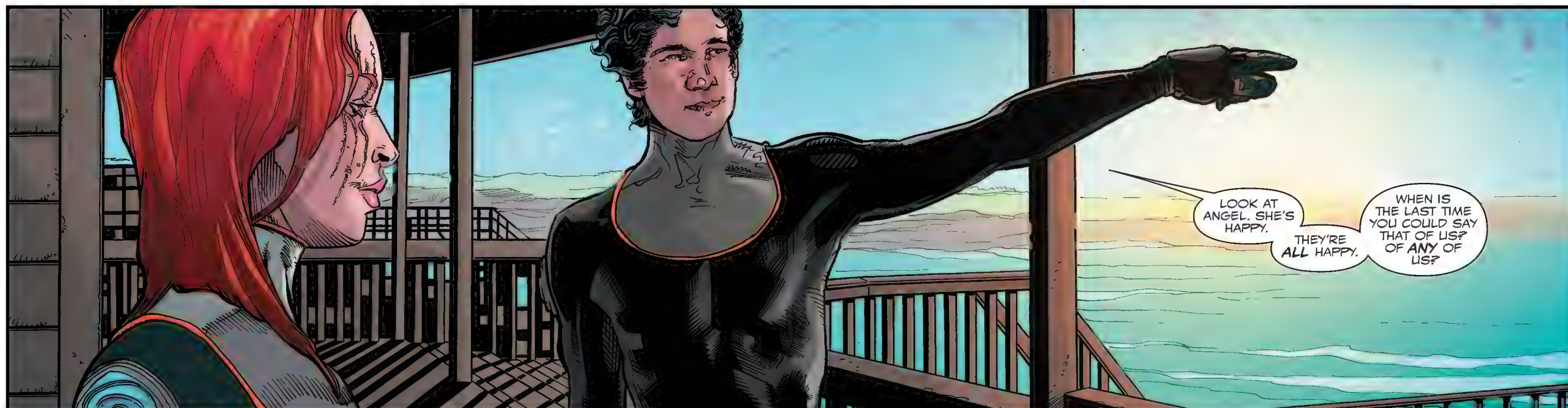
MASOCHISTS.

WHICH, Y'KNOW, I GUESS WE HAVE TO BE BY THIS POINT. IF WE WEREN'T SUCH SUCKERS FOR PUNISHMENT, WE'D GIVE UP THIS MISSION.



WHAT IF... WE DID JUST FORGET ALL THAT FOR THE TIME BEING?

FANG--?



LOOK AT ANGEL. SHE'S HAPPY.

THEY'RE ALL HAPPY.

WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU COULD SAY THAT OF US? OF ANY OF US?



WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR DAYS, NO SIGN OF ARI, OF JEB, OF THE ERASERS--

WHAT IF WE STAYED?

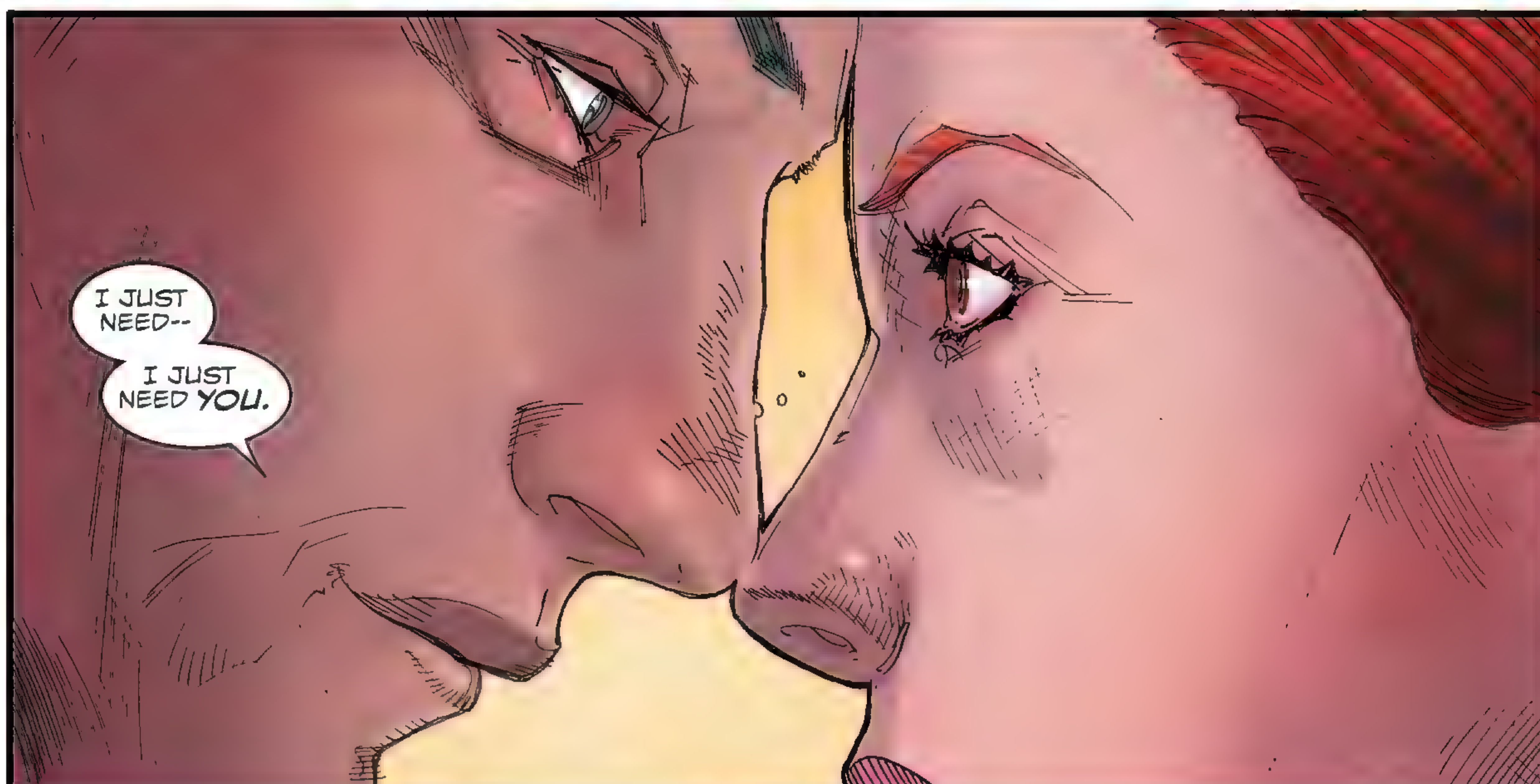
OUR PARENTS...



WE DON'T NEED OUR PARENTS. WE'VE GOTTEN SO FAR WITHOUT ANYONE BUT EACH OTHER...

I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE, MAX.

I JUST NEED OUR FAMILY--



I JUST NEED--

I JUST NEED YOU.

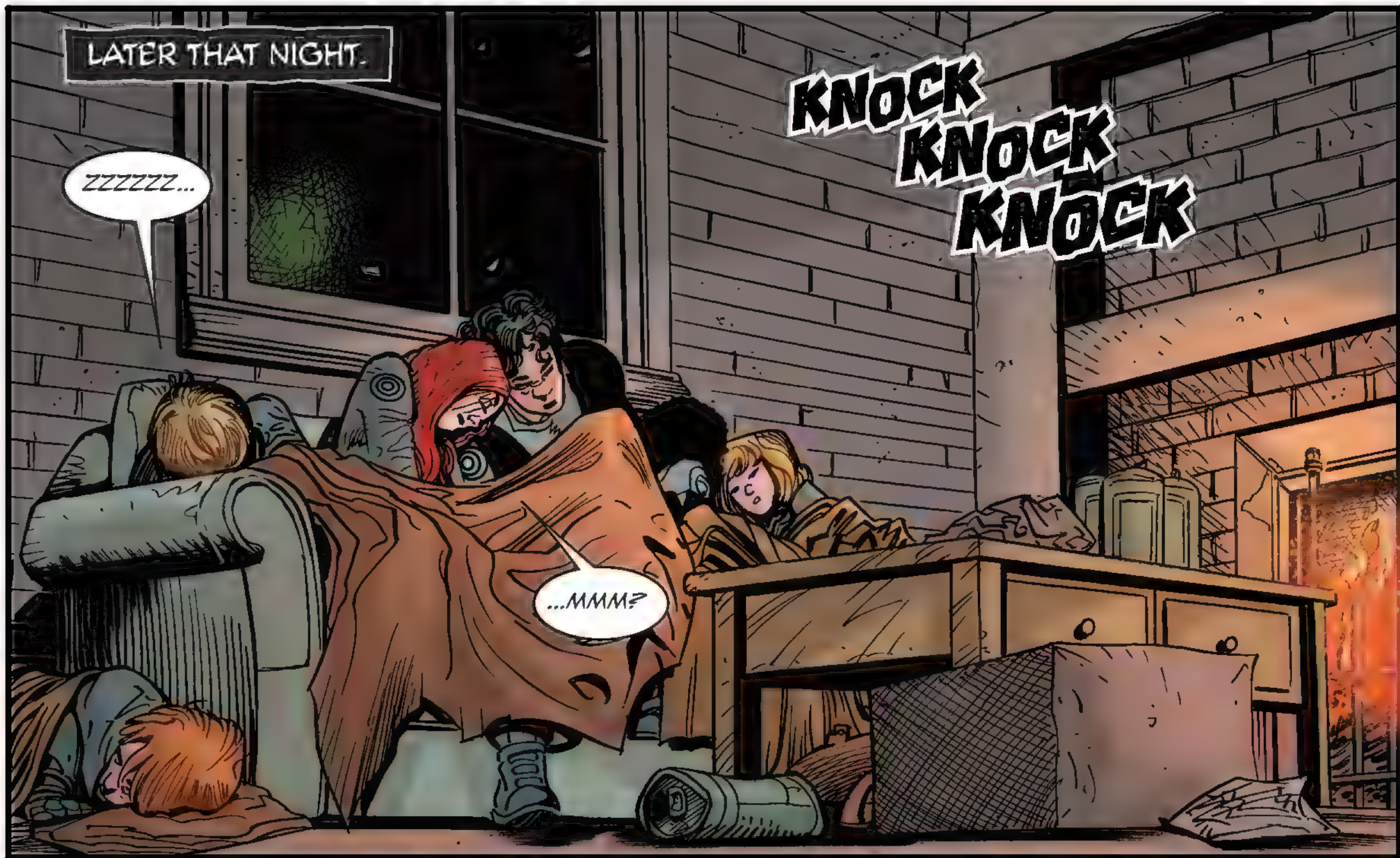


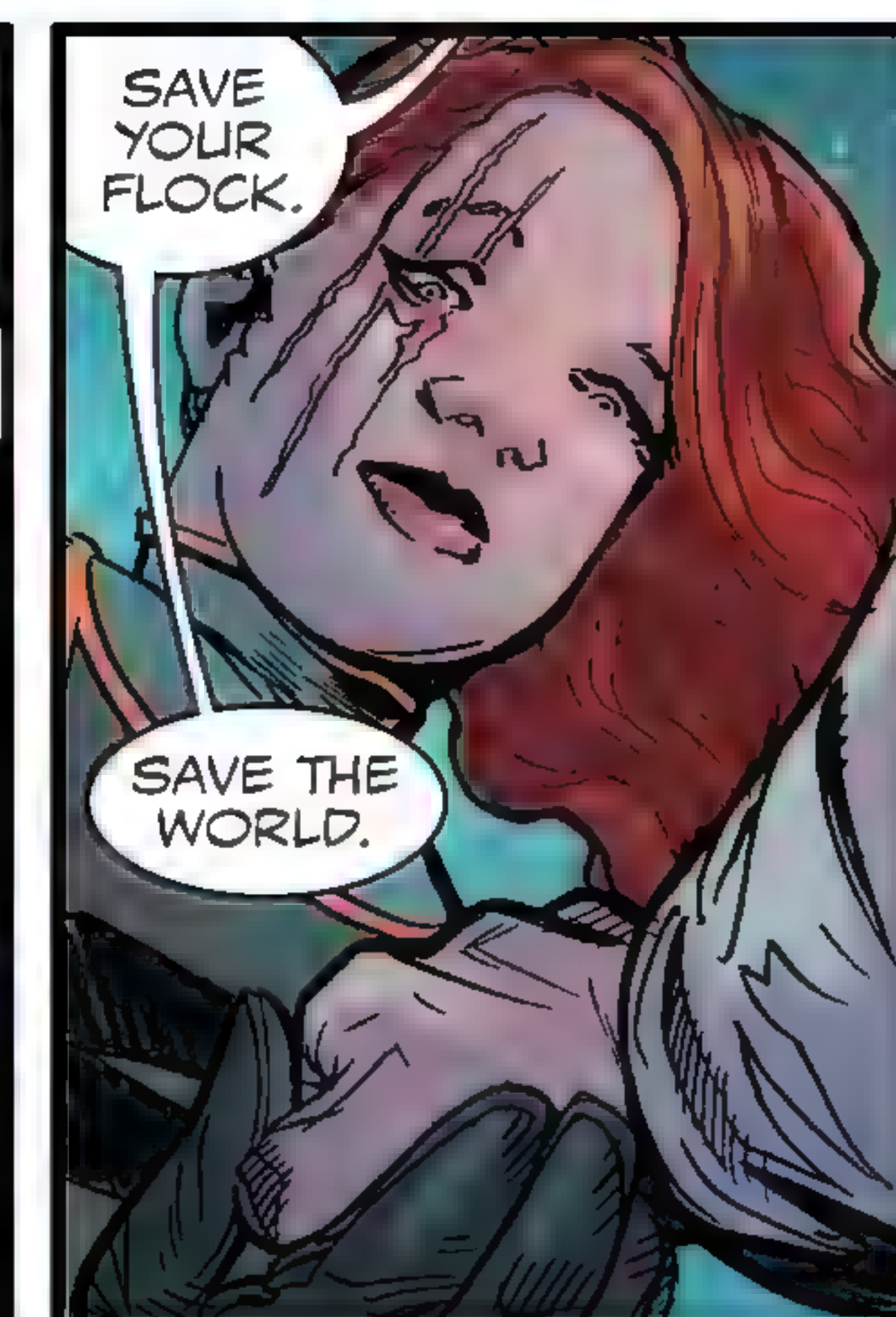
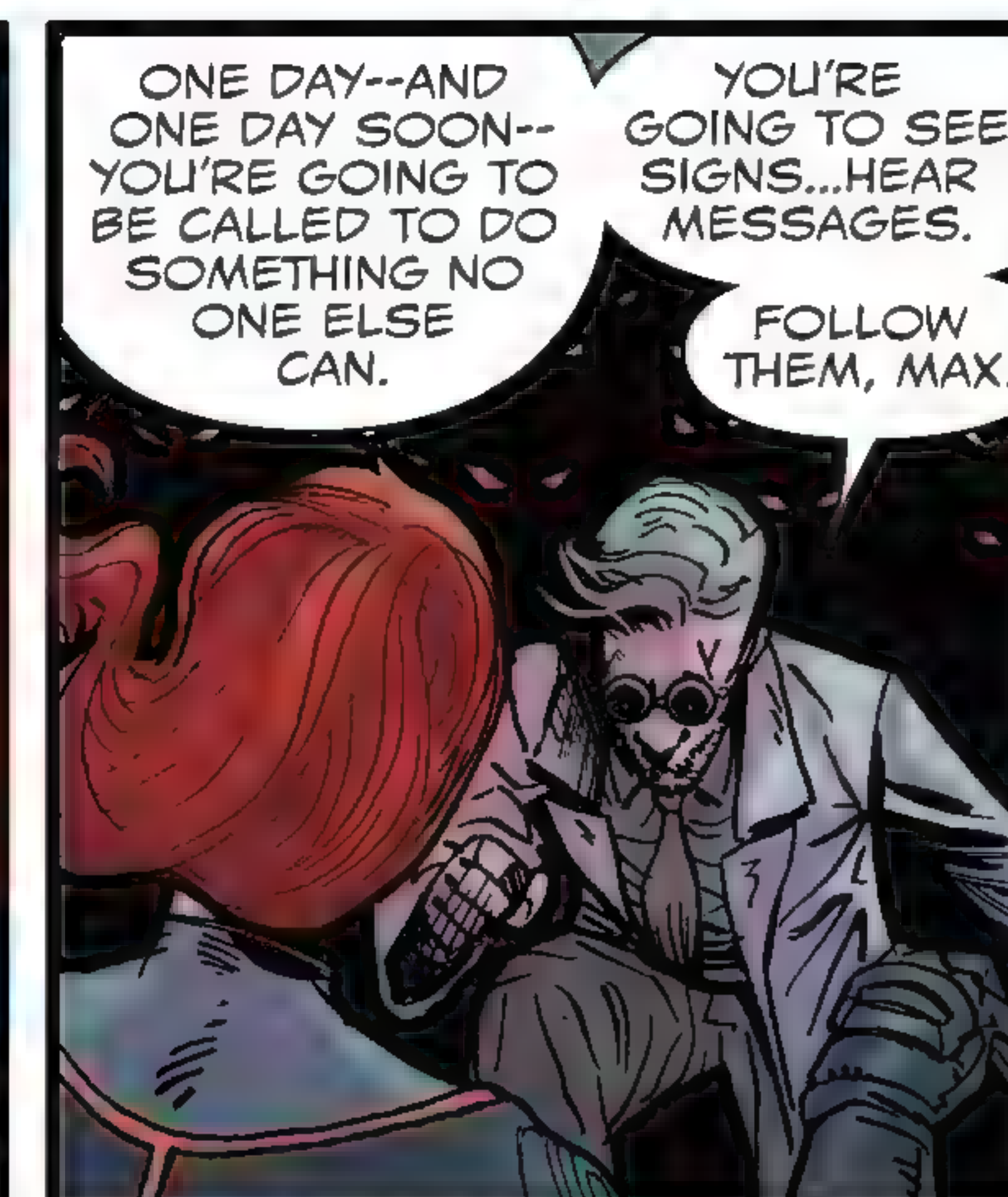
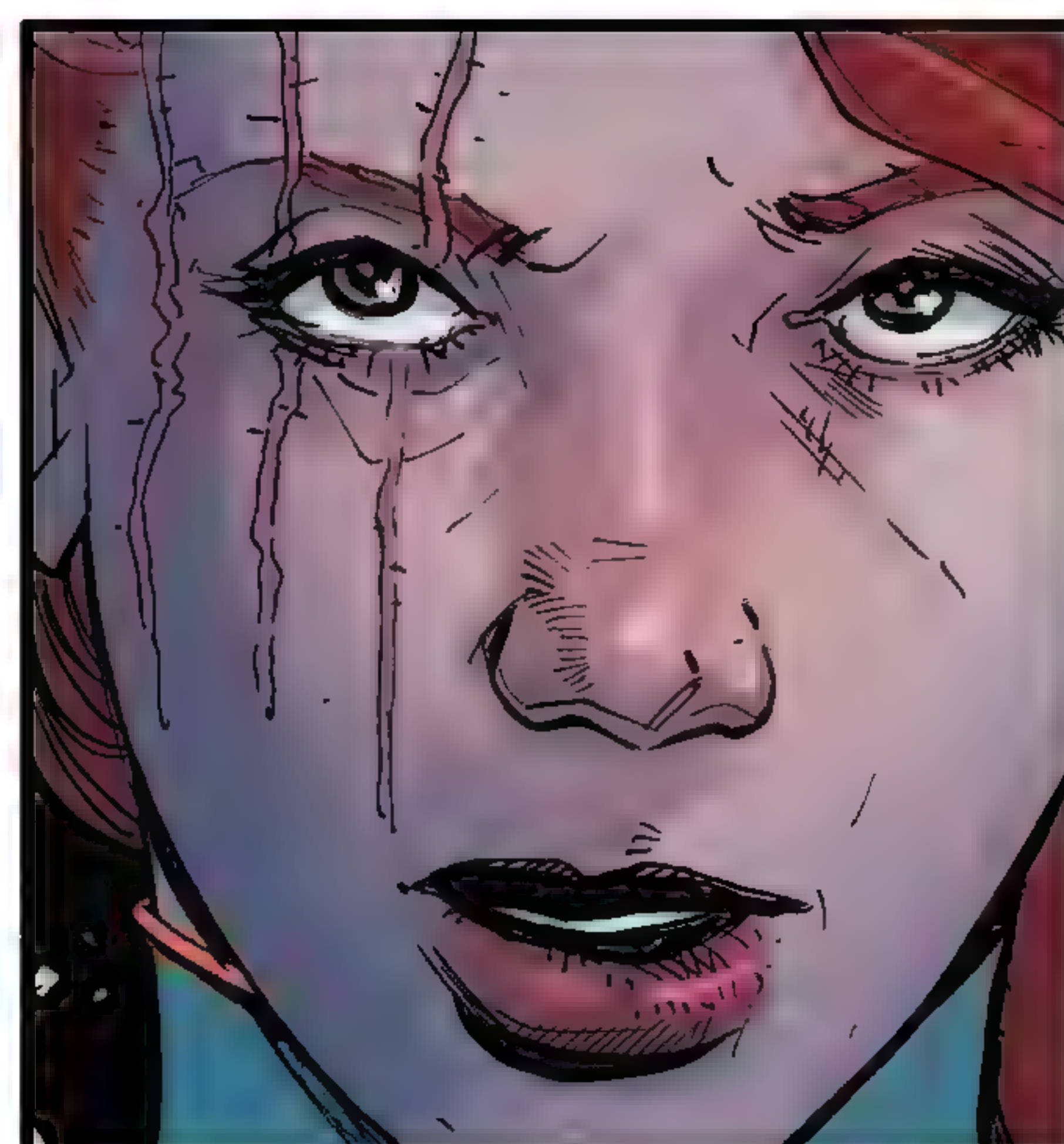
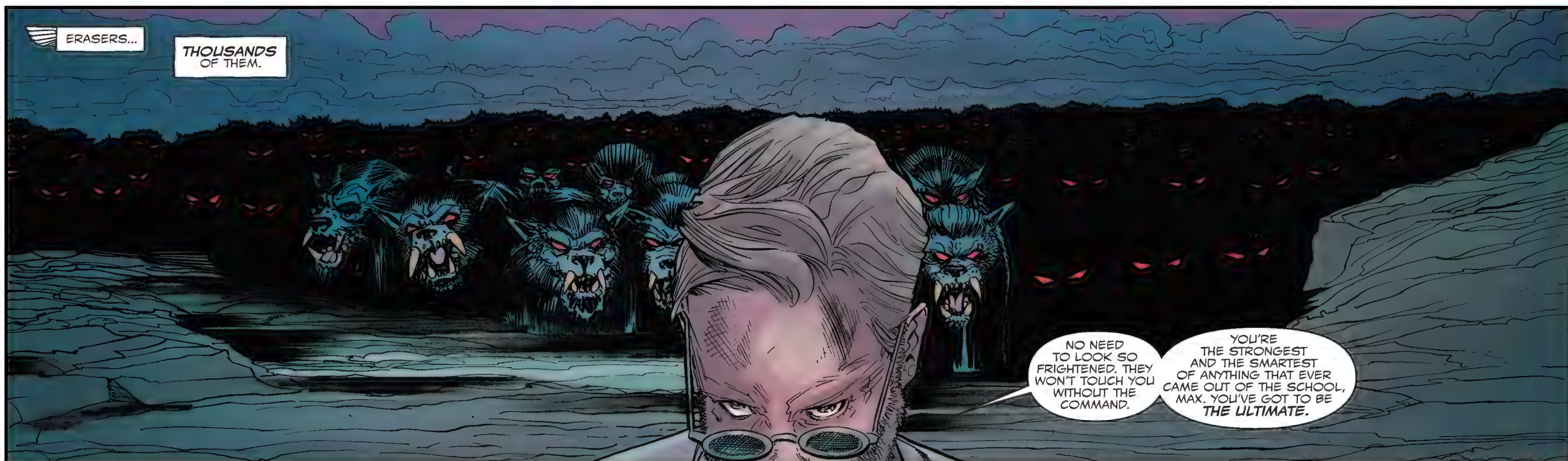
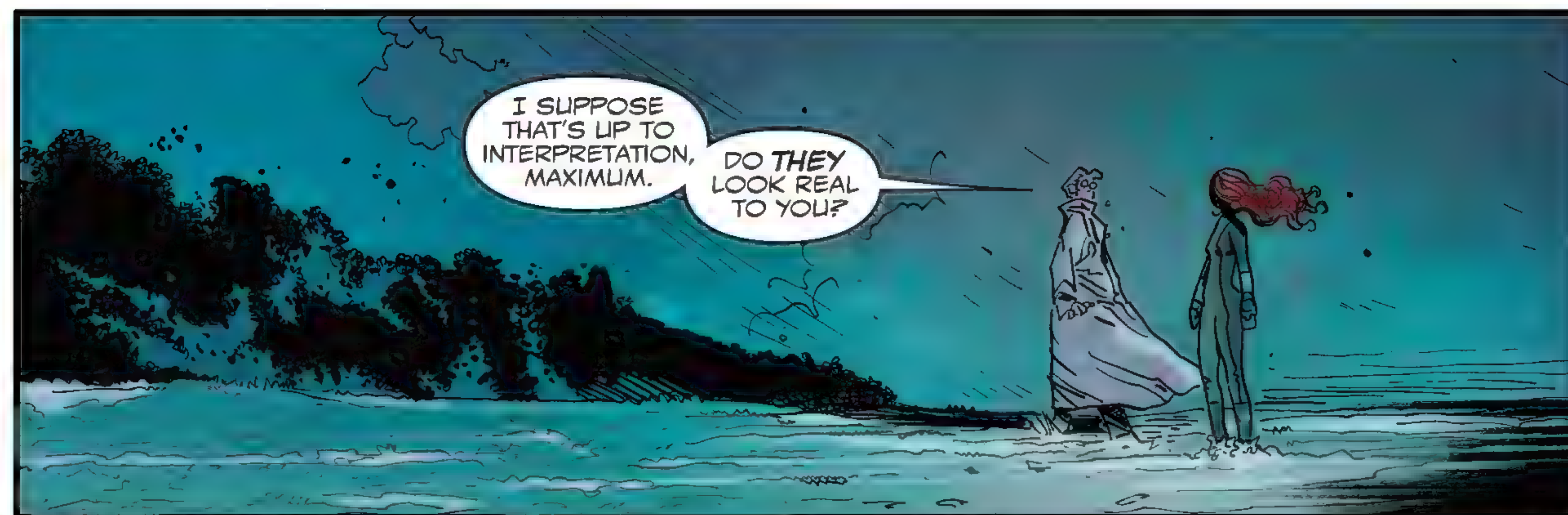
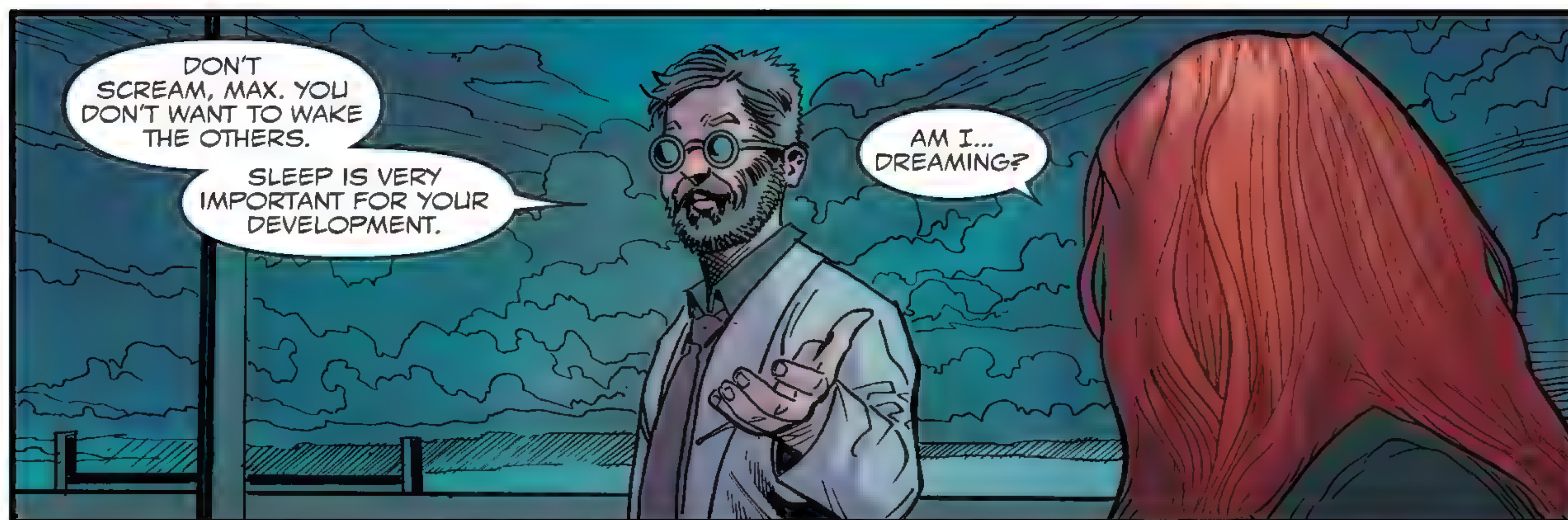
OW-OWWW!

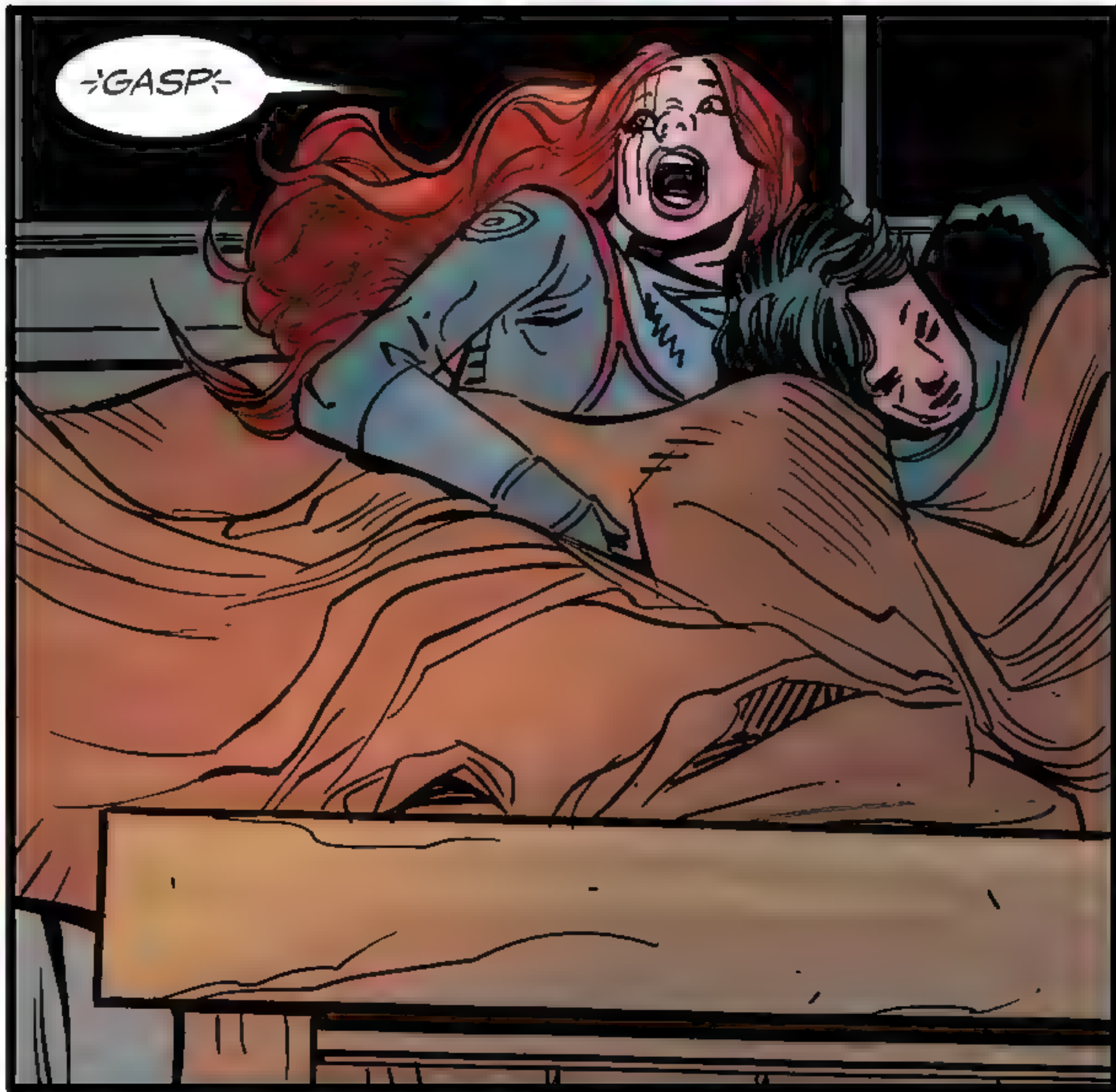
WHAT'S GOING ON, NUDGE?!

MAX AND FANG ARE KISSING, IGGY.

GROSSSSSSSS!



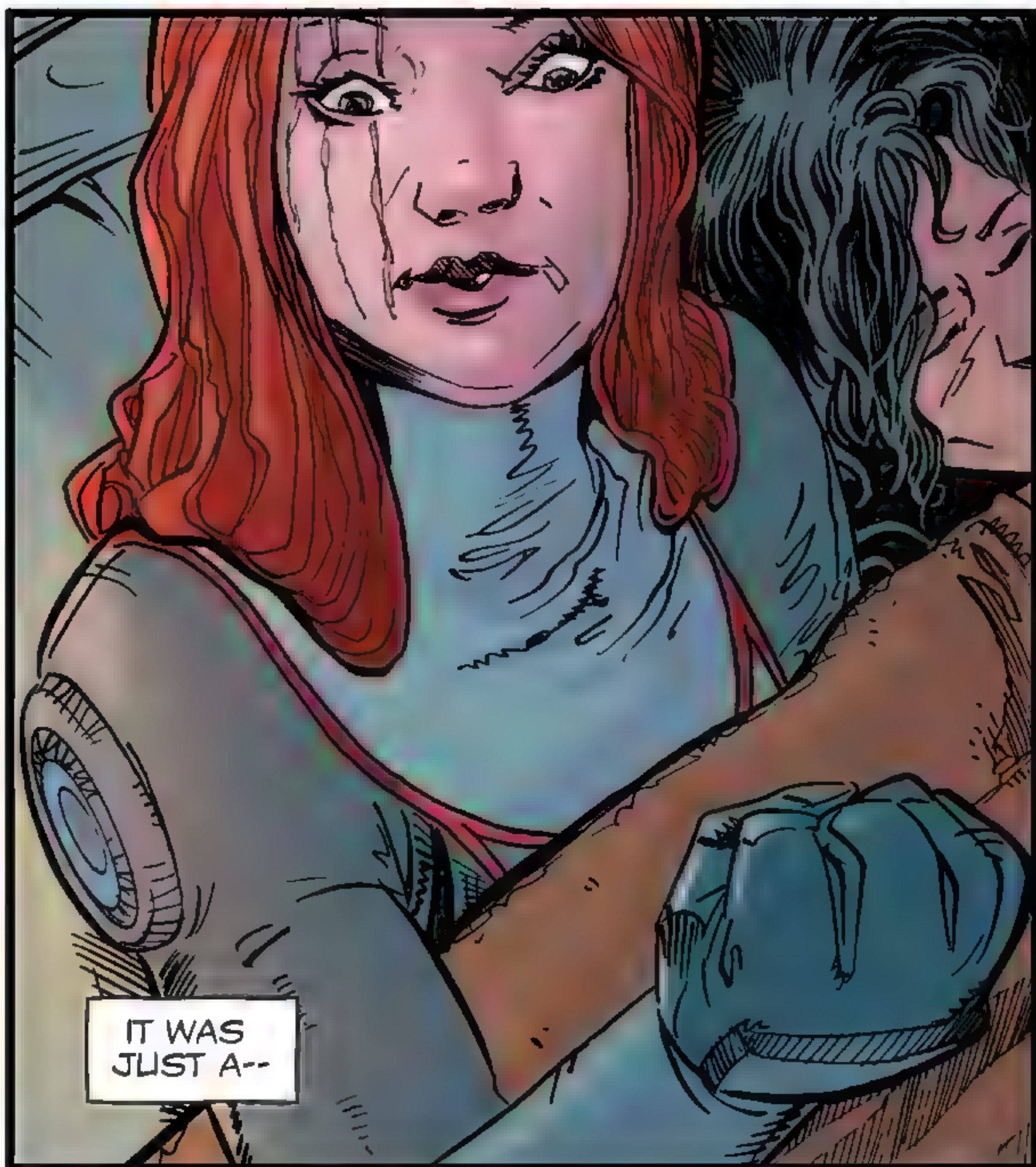




GASP



I WAS DREAMING.



IT WAS JUST A--



NO MORE RUNNING, MAX.



NO MORE HIDING.

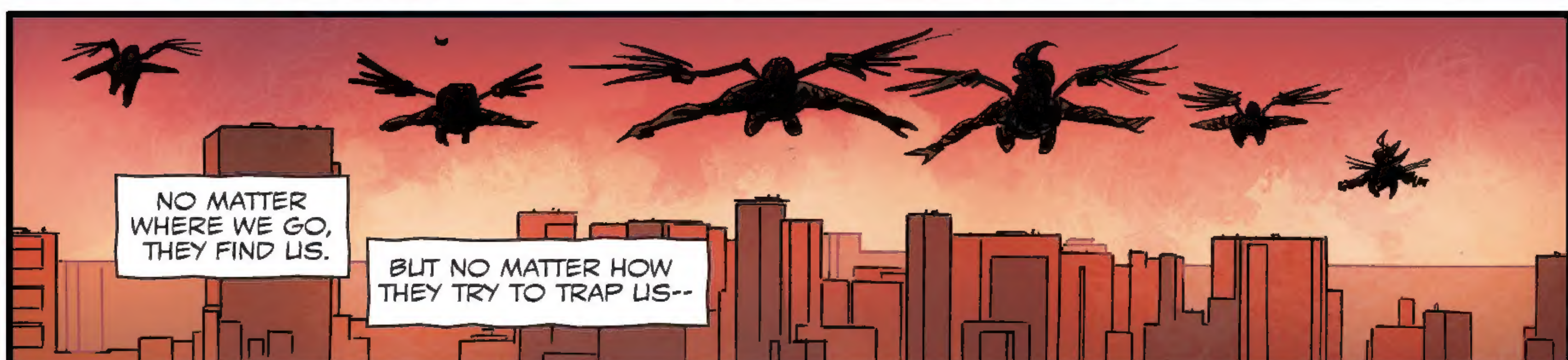
FANG, WAKE UP.



I'M
SORRY.

I'M
SORRY
WE CAN'T
STAY.

ME
TOO.



NO MATTER
WHERE WE GO,
THEY FIND US.

BUT NO MATTER HOW
THEY TRY TO TRAP US--

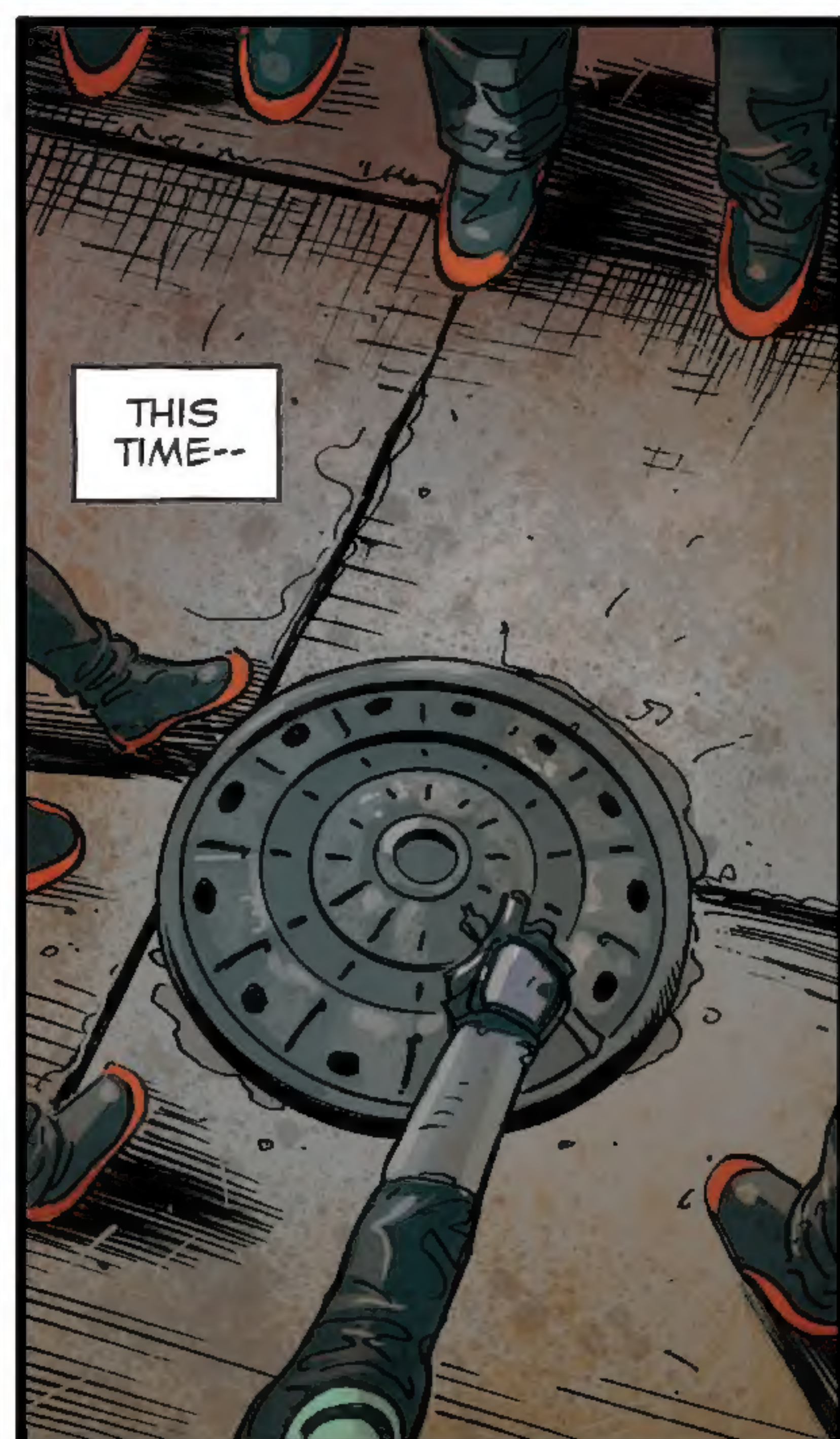


--WE
ALWAYS
FIND THE
SKY
AGAIN.

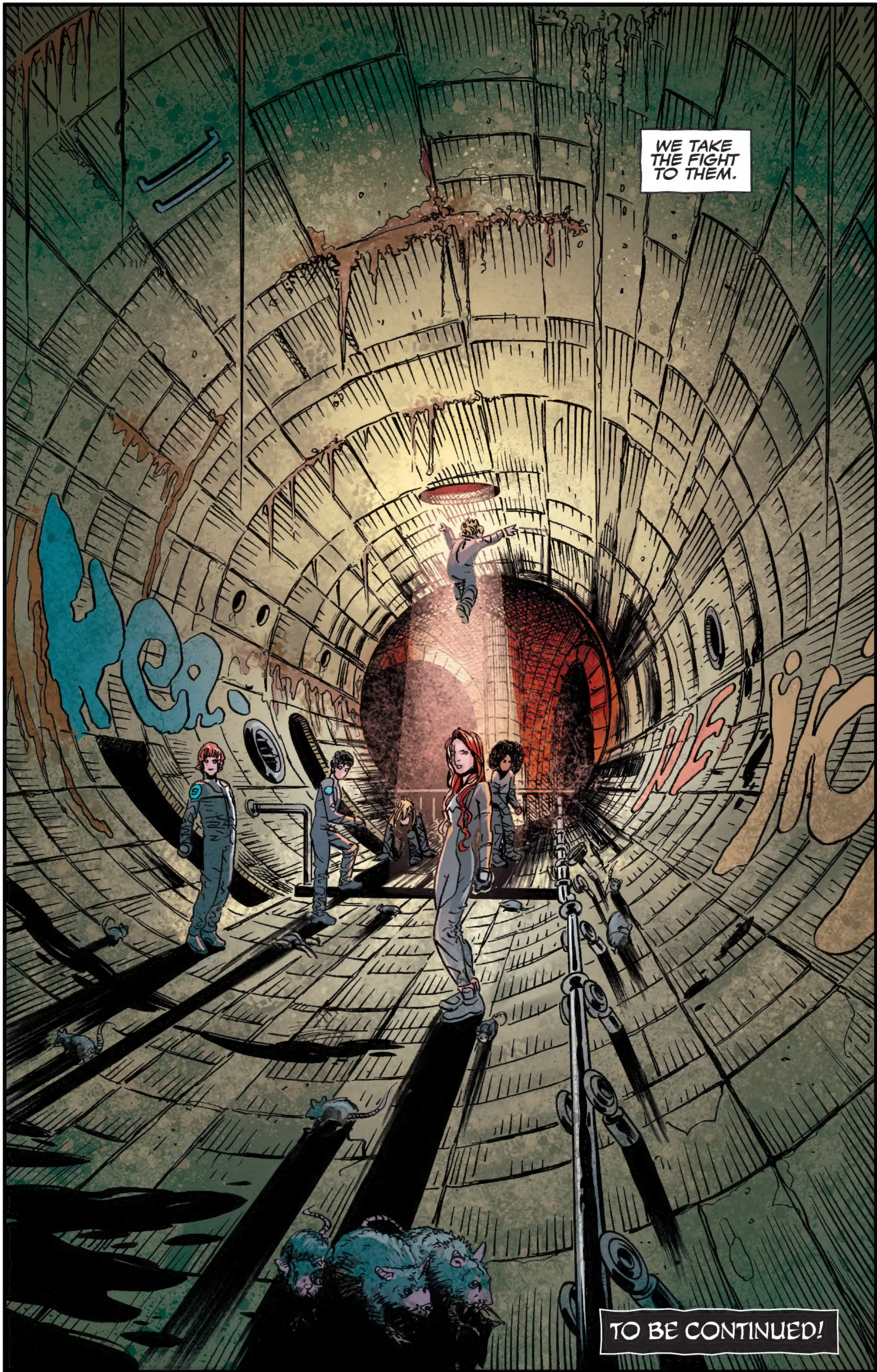


THE VOICE
IS RIGHT.

NO MORE
RUNNING.



THIS
TIME--



WE TAKE
THE FIGHT
TO THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED!

Issue #5



